

CLAIMS

1. A mutant strain of *L. bulgaricus* lacking
5 β -galactosidase activity, characterized in that it
carries a non-sense mutation in at least one of the
coding sequences of the lactose operon.
2. The mutant strain of *L. bulgaricus* as claimed
in claim 1, characterized in that said coding sequence
10 is the sequence encoding β -galactosidase.
3. ~~The mutant strain of *L. bulgaricus* as claimed
in either of claims 1 and 2, deposited on January 14,
1998 with the CNCM under the number I-1968.~~
claim 1
4. A lactic ferment, characterized in that it
15 comprises at least one strain of *L. bulgaricus* as
claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3.~~
claim 1
5. The lactic ferment as claimed in claim 4,
characterized in that said strain of *L. bulgaricus* is
combined with at least one strain of *S. thermophilus*.
6. A method for preparing a fermented dairy
20 product, characterized in that it comprises a step
during which milk is fermented using a lactic ferment
comprising at least one strain of *L. bulgaricus* as
claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ in the presence of
claim 1
- 25 at least one sugar which can be assimilated by said
strain.
7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized
in that said sugar which can be assimilated is glucose.
8. The method as claimed in ~~either of claims 6
and 7,~~ characterized in that the arrest of fermentation
30 is carried out without cooling of said dairy product.
claim 6
9. A fermented dairy product which can be obtained
using a method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8.~~
claim 6
10. The fermented dairy as claimed in claim 9,
35 characterized in that said product is a yogurt.

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separate page

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